REMARKS

Claims 28-54 are pending in the present application. Claims 32 and 50 were amended in this response to correct informalities. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims were objected to for informalities. In light of the presently submitted amendments, Applicants submit the objectionable matter has been addressed. Withdrawal of the objections are earnestly requested.

Claims 28-33, 37-42 and 45-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by *Wolf* (US Patent 6,163,551). Claims 34-36, 43-44 and 53-554 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wolf* (US Patent 6,163,551). Applicant respectfully traverse these ejections.

Specifically, *Wolf* fails to disclose the feature of "a converter in the at least one interface unit which converts the data describing the quality of the clock signal into messages, the format of the messages being independent of a format of the data transmitted, and which transmits the messages to the device for assessment" as recited in independent claim 28 and similarly recited in independent claims 37 and 47.
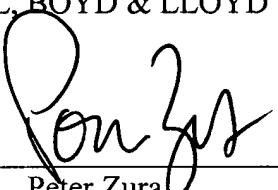
Wolf teaches a central clock generator that sends a message about its synchronization status to a control installation. The message contains information regarding the accuracy of the clock selected as the reference clock and the origin of this clock. The control installation in turn sends instructions to all the network elements of the network node regarding which quality indicator they are to transmit from which output (col. 3, lines 32-40). In each of the disclosed embodiments in *Wolf* (see col. 4, lines 37-50; col. 5, lines 1-12; col. 6, lines 44-63), messages describing the quality of the clock signal are already received at a predetermined interface, using a respective format (e.g., X.25, Q-interface). In col. 2, lines 25-34 and col. 3, lines 14-29, these passages merely describe the instruction messages that are transmitted to select an external reference clock for network elements that are not part of the node. However, the subsequent embodiments teach a single format through which these messages are sent, as discussed above. Accordingly, it follows that *Wolf* cannot teach the conversion of data describing the quality of the clock signal into messages, where the format of the messages are independent of a format of the data transmitted.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103 are improper and should be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket no. (0112740-184) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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